section of industrialists for the creation of an 'unemployment fund' as, in their view the new technologies would lead to an immediate increase in unemployment and under-employment; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has no proposal to create such an unemployment fund.

Disparity in the prices of sugar molasses, khandsari and gur molasses

2312. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the disparity in the prices of sugar molasses, khandsari and Gur molasses;

(b) to what extent the disparity in the prices is attributed to the diversion of sugarcane to Khandsari and Gur sectors in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose either to lift the price control on sugar molasses or to increase reasonably the price of sugar molasses to ease the problems being faced by the sugar industry; if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) As per the Molasses Control Order 1961, the prices of sugar mill molasses and khandsari molasses are as follows:—

Grade of Sugar Mill Molasses	Price
Grade I	Rs. 6·00 per 100 Kilograms
Grade II	Rs. 4·80 per 100 Kilograms
Grade III	Rs. 3·60 per 100 Kilograms
Below Grade III	Rs. 3·60 for every 40 Kilograms reducing sugar content there in.

NOTE: From the price fixed under the above schedule for different grade of molasses, the below mentioned amounts shall be accounted for and funded separately by the producers and shall be utilised for erection of adequate storage facilities in accordance with the orders that may be issued by the Central Government for the regulation of such funds:—

Grade I Molasses	Rs. 2·00 per 100 kilograms
Grade II Molasses	Rs. 1·60 per 100 kilograms
Grade III Molasses	Rs. 1·20 per 100 kilograms
Below Grade III Molasses	Rs. 1·20 for every 40 kilograms reducing sugar content therein.

Grade of Khandsari -Molasses	Price
Grade K-I	
Total reducing sugar by weight above 60 per cent.	Rs. 9·00 per 100 kilograms
Grade K-II	
Total reducing sugar by weight from 55 to 60 per cent	Rs. 7·50 per 100 kilograms
Grade K-III	
As per specification of Grade I cane molasses.	Rs. 6·00 per 100 kilograms
Grade K-IV	
As per specification of Grade II cane molasses.	Rs. 4·80 per 100 kilograms
Grade K-V	
As per specification of Grade III cane molasses.	Rs. 3·60 per 100 kilograms
Below grade K-V	Rs. 3·60 for every 40 kilograms reducing sugar content therein.

NOTE.—From the price fixed under the above schedule, 33—1/3% thereof shall be accounted for and funded separately by the producers, and shall be utilised for erection of adequate Storage facilities in accordance with the orders that may be issued by the Central Government for the regulation of such funds.

(b) The difference in the prices of sugar and khandsari molasses cannot be attributed to the diversion of sugarcane to khandsari and gur sectors.

(c) A new policy on molasses is likely to be finalised shortly.

Benefits to women bidi workers

2313. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the benefits being given to the women workers engaged in bidi industry; and

(b) whether any additional benefits are proposed to be given to them by Government; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Bidi workers, including women, are entitled to free medical care, provision of free spectacles and scholarships for their wards under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. They are also entitled to subsidy and interest free loans under 'Build Your Own' Housing Scheme. Women workers are entitled to benefits under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

(b) The upper wage limit for eligibility to avail of the benefits under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund has been raised from Rs. 1250 p.m. to Rs. 1600 p.m. Women workers will also be benefited by this. No scheme specially for women workers is under consideration.

Talks with South Korean Economic Delegation

2314. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the discussions held between the visiting South Korean economic delegation and Indian officials;